

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6. OHIO**

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Release Book

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An exhibition of ANCIENT ART IN VIET NAM will open at The Cleveland Museum of Art on March 7. Objects dating to 200 B.C. have been gathered from museums all over the world: Musees Royaux du Cinquantenaire, Brussels, National Museum of Saigon, National Museum of Hue, The Peabody Museum of Harvard University and private collections in Washington.

These treasures stem from the Cham Period (500-1500 A.D.) and the four Pre-Cham Cultures (200 B.C. - A.D. 500) preceding it. Some of the objects are specifically Vietnamese while others belong to ancient civilizations which flourished on what is now Vietnamese soil. They illustrate the originality of the Vietnamese culture which began thousands of years ago in the valley of the Red River and which has been enriched through contact with various peoples and civilizations.

The exhibition contains 148 objects and is arranged according to period. The four Pre-Cham Cultures are represented by many beautiful decorative pieces of bronze and pottery. Seventy of these objects are new to America and were recently excavated in Oc-eo. Among them are golden jewels, engraved figures on carnelian and objects in bronze, pewter and lead.

The show contains 46 objects from the Cham Period when classical art reached its height. Included are sculptures of divine personages, decorative objects and gold and silver jewelry produced by highly skilled artisans.

This collection of art and archaeology is the first such exhibition to be organized by the Vietnamese Government and is being circulated in the United States by the Smithsonian Institution.

The show will remain in the Special Exhibition galleries of the Museum through April 9.

The Smithsonian Institution is bringing from museums in Saigon, Paris, Brussels and Cambridge, Massachusetts, with Government assistance, collections of archeological and art objects originating in Viet-Nam. ~~These will be exhibited in Washington during late October, November, and early December, 1960.~~ The collections are being borrowed for a period of one year, and during the latter part of the year they will be circulated in the United States. ~~A list of objects with an approximation of the volume and weight of the entire shipment is attached.~~

The Cham civilization, archeological examples of which are not to be found in American collections, is significantly represented in the list. The gems and jewels excavated at Oc-ec are also new to American scholars. They have been described by Professor Louis Malleret, former Director of the Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient, as giving evidence of earlier penetration of Greco-Roman influence into Southeast Asia than heretofore realized.

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